

Geo. N. Brown

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### MEDICAL PROGRESS.

*American Medical Association.*—[The Association held its fourth annual meeting in Charleston, S. C., on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th of May. The judicious and comfortable arrangements made for the accommodation of the Association, and the cordial and elegant hospitalities lavishly extended to the members by our brethren of the Palmetto State, rendered this one of the most delightful meetings of the Association. All that has been said of southern hospitality was more than realized, and the warm and friendly feelings engendered on this occasion must be productive of the best results.]

An extremely important measure was adopted at this meeting, in the abolition of the standing committees, and the substitution for them of special committees to report on particular subjects, and the adoption of measures to encourage the presentation of original papers. This is a great step in the right direction, and will elevate the character of the Association; it will give a more scientific character to its meetings, and tend to direct the energies of the Association to extending the bounds and increase the usefulness of our science.

We subjoin a full account of the meeting, derived from an authentic source.]

*Minutes of the Fourth Annual Meeting of the American Medical Association, held in the city of Charleston, May, 1851.*

CHARLESTON, May 6th, 1851.

The Association met in St. Andrew's Hall at 11 o'clock A. M., the President, Dr. Mussey, in the chair.

Dr. Simons, chairman of a committee from the South Carolina Medical Association, welcomed the delegates to the city.

Dr. Frost, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, read a list of the delegates who had registered their names.

The President read the following letter:

"PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 27th, 1850.

"R. D. Mussey, M. D., President of the Am. Med. Association.

"SIR: The state of my health is such as to render my attention to professional duties, for the present, unsafe, and I have, therefore, resolved to seek relaxation abroad. As I shall not, in all probability, return home before the next meeting of the Association, I beg leave to tender my resignation of the office of secretary, and to offer to the

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*In no case will this work be sent unless the money is paid in advance.*

*This should pay postage as one newspaper.*

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Association, through you, my acknowledgments for the honour with which they have so repeatedly distinguished me.

"With most earnest hopes for the prosperity of the Association, I have the honour to be

"Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,  
(Signed) "ALFRED STILLE."

On motion of Dr. Arnold, of Ga., the letter was ordered, to be recorded on the minutes, in evidence of the high estimation felt by the Association for the services of Dr. Stillé.

Dr. Arnold, of Ga., offered the following resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Frost, of S. C., and adopted:—

*Resolved*, That a committee of one from each State represented in the Association, to be chosen by their respective delegations, be appointed to nominate suitable officers to be elected for the ensuing year.

On motion, the Association then went into a recess of fifteen minutes, to enable the delegations to appoint the Nominating Committee.

At the expiration of the recess, the President announced the Nominating Committee as follows: Drs. Horatio Adams, *Massachusetts*; Usher Parsons, *Rhode Island*; A. H. Stevens, *New York*; Joseph Fithian, *New Jersey*; Joseph Carson, *Pennsylvania*; G. W. Miltenberger, *Maryland*; B. R. Wellford, *Virginia*; N. J. Pittman, *North Carolina*; H. R. Frost, *South Carolina*; R. D. Arnold, *Georgia*; W. H. Anderson, *Alabama*; James Jones, *Louisiana*; J. B. Lindsley, *Tennessee*; J. B. Flint, *Kentucky*; Geo. Mendenhall, *Ohio*; Thos. Reyburn, *Missouri*; John Sloan, *Indiana*; C. Boyle, *Dist. of Columbia*.

The President delivered an address.

The Nominating Committee reported the following as officers of the Association.

*President*.—James Moultrie, *South Carolina*.

*Vice-Presidents*.—G. Hayward, *Mass.*; R. D. Arnold, *Ga.*; B. R. Wellford, *Va.*; J. B. Flint, *Ken.*

*Secretaries*.—H. W. De Saussure, *South Carolina*; P. C. Gooch, *Va.*

*Treasurer*.—Isaac Hays, *Pennsylvania*.

The report was accepted, and on motion of Dr. La Roche, of Pennsylvania, it was resolved that the officers thus nominated be the officers of the Association for the ensuing year; and that the officers elected be invited

to take their seats. The President elect then returned his thanks to the Association for the honor conferred upon him.

The Secretary read a report transmitted to him by Dr. Roberts, of Maryland, chairman of a committee appointed at the last meeting of the Association to report unfinished business. On motion of Dr. Arnold, of Ga., the report was accepted and laid on the table.

Dr. Gaillard, of S. Carolina, moved that the following resolution, offered by Dr. Drake, of Ohio, at the session of 1850, be taken up for consideration, viz.:—

*"Resolved*, That the second section of the regulations of the Association be so amended as to require that candidates for membership by invitation be nominated in writing by five members; that when elected, they shall enjoy all the rights of delegates; and that all permanent members shall be entitled to vote." After some discussion, on motion of Dr. Stevens, of New York, the resolution was referred to a committee consisting of Dr. Drake, of Ohio, Dr. Wood, of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Wellford, of Virginia.

The reports of standing committees being then called for, Dr. Stevens, of N. York, offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to report to the Association the business before it, and to offer such suggestions as they may deem advisable for the due discharge of the same.

The resolution was discussed by Drs. Storer, of Mass.; Moore, of Ga.; and Beltinger, of S. C., and finally rejected.

On motion, the Association adjourned to meet on Wednesday, the 7th, at 10 o'clock A. M.

#### *May 7th.—Morning Session.*

The Association met at 11 o'clock A. M., the President, Dr. Moultrie, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. Wood, of Penn., chairman of the committee appointed to consider and report on the amendment to the constitution, proposed in the resolution of Dr. Drake, of Ohio, at the session of 1850, reported that it was advisable to adopt that part of the resolution requiring members by invitation to be proposed, in writing, by five members, giving them all the privileges of delegates, except the right to vote; also recommend-

ing that the part of the resolution giving permanent members the right to vote, be not adopted.

Dr. Drake, of Ohio, from the same committee, made a minority report, recommending that the constitution be so amended as to require members by invitation to be nominated in writing by five members, giving them all the rights and privileges of delegates, including those of voting and permanent membership; also recommending that permanent members be allowed the privilege of voting. These reports were discussed by Drs. Arnold, of Ga.; Wood, of Penn.; Davis, of Ill.; Drake, of Ohio; Atlee, of Penn.; Meigs, of Penn.

At this stage of the discussion, Dr. C. Hooker, of Conn., asked and obtained a suspension of the discussion, to enable him to offer the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That no member be permitted to speak longer than ten minutes at one time, in any one debate.

The discussion of the reports was then resumed by Drs. Dickson, of S. Carolina; Hays, of Penn.; Davis, of Ill.; Bond, of Maryland; and Z. B. Adams, of Mass.

Dr. Hays, of Penn., moved to lay the reports on the table, but modified the motion so that a vote might be taken on each recommendation of the reports. The part of the report requiring members by invitation to be nominated, in writing, by five members, and giving them the rights of delegates, was then laid on the table. The vote being then taken on allowing permanent members the privilege of voting, it was lost by a large majority.

Dr. Hays, of Penn., treasurer and chairman of the Committee on Publication, presented and read his reports, concluding with the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the assessment for the present year shall be three dollars.

*Resolved*, That those delegates who pay the assessment shall be entitled to one copy of the Transactions for the present year, and that the payment of two dollars in addition shall entitle them to two additional copies.

*Resolved*, That the permanent members shall be entitled to one copy of the Transactions for the present year, on the payment of two dollars, and three copies on the payment of five dollars.

*Resolved*, That the societies which have been represented in the Association shall be entitled to copies, for their members, on the same terms that copies are furnished to permanent members.

*Resolved*, That permanent members, unless present at the meeting as delegates, shall not be subject to any assessment.

*Resolved*, That any delegate who is in arrears for his assessment shall not be considered a permanent member.

*Resolved*, That the several committees be requested to bring to the meeting of the Association their reports correctly and legibly transcribed, and that they be required to hand them to the Secretaries as soon as they have been read.

The report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication. The resolutions were considered *seriatim*, and adopted.

On motion of Dr. Drake, of Ohio, the report of the Committee on Surgery was called for.

Dr. Paul F. Eve, of Ga., chairman of the Committee on Surgery, presented and read the report of the committee, which, on motion, was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Secretary informed the Association that he had received from Dr. Flint, of N. York, chairman of the Committee on Practical Medicine, a printed copy of the report of the committee, three hundred of which had also been sent for distribution among the members of the Association.

On motion of Dr. Hays, of Penn., the report was read by its title, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

The Association then adjourned to 5 P. M.

#### Afternoon Session.

The President in the chair.

Dr. Boyle, of the Dist. of Columbia, invited the Association, in the name of the Medical Society of the District of Columbia, to hold its next annual meeting in the city of Washington. Drs. C. P. Johnson and P. C. Gooch, of Va., presented similar invitations from the Medical Department of Hampden Sydney College and the Medical Society of Virginia, to meet in Richmond, Va. Dr. James Jones, of Louisiana, presented an invitation of like purport from the Medical Faculty of the University of Louisiana, to hold its next session in New Orleans, La. Dr. Reyburn, of Missouri, urged the

claims of St. Louis as the next place of meeting. On motion, these several invitations were referred to the Committee on Nominations.

On motion of Dr. Parsons, of Rhode Island, the Committee on Nominations were requested to make the appointment of the several standing committees. Drs. N. B. Ives, of Connecticut, and N. S. Davis, of Illinois, were added to the Committee on Nominations, these States not having been previously represented. Dr. Jones, of Louisiana, declined serving on the committee, and Dr. E. D. Fenner was appointed, by the delegation of the State, in his stead.

On motion of Dr. Wragg, of S. C., the reports of the Committee on Prize Essays, and of Obstetrics, were made the special order for the evening session.

The Secretary presented and read the report of the Committee on Prize Essays. The committee awarded the prize for successful authorship to Dr. John C. Dalton, Jr., of Boston, author of the essay "On the Corpus Luteum of Menstruation and Pregnancy," recommending that the essay be published among the Transactions of the Association. On motion, the report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Storer, of Massachusetts, the chairman of the Committee on Obstetrics, presented and read the report of the committee. Dr. Robinson, of S. Carolina, moved that the report be re-committed to the committee. After some discussion, this resolution was adopted. The report was re-committed and made the special order for the morning session.

The Association then adjourned to 10 A. M. of Thursday.

#### May 8th—Morning Session.

The President, Dr. Moultrie, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. J. N. Smith, of Mass., moved that the report of the Committee on Medical Education be made the special order, after the disposal of the report of the Committee on Obstetrics.

Dr. Gaillard, of S. C., on behalf of the Committee of Arrangements, read a list of the delegates registered since the last report.

Dr. Campbell, of Georgia, placed on the

table, for inspection and examination, a model of a malformation of the knee-joint, the patella of which was wanting.

Dr. G. B. Wood, of Pa., offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That colleges, exclusively of dentistry and pharmacy, are not recognized by this Association as among the bodies authorized to send delegates to its meetings.

Dr. J. R. Wood, of N. York, moved to amend by dividing the resolution so as to take the question—first, on the reception of delegates from colleges of dentistry, and then on the reception of delegates from colleges of pharmacy. The amendment was accepted. The question of the reception of delegates from colleges of dentistry was then discussed by Drs. Hays, of Penn.; Z. B. Adams, of Mass.; Wood, of Penn.; Drake, of Ohio; Wood, of N. York; J. L. Atlee, of Penn.; and Bond, of Maryland.

At this stage of the discussion, Dr. Yardley, of Penn., asked and obtained leave to read the following preamble and resolutions, ordered to be laid before the Association by the Philadelphia Co. Medical Society:—

*Whereas*, The Constitution of the American Medical Association, by providing for the reception of delegates from all permanently organized medical societies, medical colleges, hospitals, lunatic asylums, and other permanently organized medical institutions, unjustly favours the profession in cities where such institutions exist, and can be readily formed, and diminishes the importance and thereby discourages the formation of county medical societies in rural districts, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the Constitution of said Association should be altered so as to admit only delegates from county or State medical societies.

*Resolved*, That a copy of the preceding preamble and resolution, signed by the President and Secretary of this Society, be transmitted to the Association at its next session.

(Signed.)

SAMUEL JACKSON, *Pres't*,  
D. FRANCIS CONDIE, *Sec'y*.

PHILADELPHIA, April 26th, 1851.

The preamble and resolution having been read, Dr. Lamb, of Penn., moved to lay the whole subject on the table, which motion was lost. The discussion was then resumed by Drs. Hays, of Penn., Atlee, of Penn.,

Drake, of Ohio, Wood, of Penn., Bond, of Maryland.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Penn., moved that the whole subject of delegates from colleges of dentistry and pharmacy be referred to a committee consisting of five members, with instructions to report also whether some more equitable plan of representation than the present one cannot be devised. This resolution was adopted. On motion of Dr. Yardley, of Penn., the preamble and resolutions of the Philadelphia County Medical Society were referred to the same committee.

Dr. Jones, of N. Carolina, offered the following resolution: *Resolved*, That all the medical colleges in the United States are hereby earnestly and respectfully requested to hold a convention through delegates respectively chosen by them, at least once in every six years, to take into consideration the proper method of harmoniously elevating the standard of medical education in said colleges.

The Secretary read a letter and some documents placed on the table, which, on motion of Dr. C. Hooker, of Conn., were referred to the Indiana delegation, with instructions to report at 1 o'clock P. M.

The report of the Committee on Obstetrics being the special order, Dr. Storer, of Mass., chairman of that committee, presented the report, which on motion was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Penn., presented to the Association, on behalf of Prof. Haldeman, of Lancaster County, Penn., an essay on Latin pronunciation, and moved that it be referred to the Committee on Medical Education.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education being now the special order, its reading was suspended to receive the report of the Nominating Committee, which was presented, read, and laid on the table.

Dr. Hays, of Penn., called up a resolution submitted by himself during the session of 1849, which, as it involved an alteration of the constitution, was laid on the table until the next session. In consequence of the absence of Dr. Hays from the session of 1850, the resolution was referred to the committee on unfinished business, to be reported on at the present session. The resolution reads as follows: (vide vol. ii. page 43.) *Resolved*, To strike out from the Constitution of the Association all that relates to standing committees on "Medical Sciences," on

"Practical Medicine," on "Surgery," on "Obstetrics," on "Medical Education," and on "Medical Literature."

This resolution was discussed by Drs. Stevens, of N. York, Drake, of Ohio, W. Hooker, of Conn., G. B. Wood, of Penn., and Davis, of Ill., and finally adopted.

Dr. G. B. Wood, of Penn., offered the following resolution, which was adopted: *Resolved*, That a committee of seven be appointed to take into consideration the arrangement of committees for future action, to report as early as possible.

The report of the Indiana delegation, being the special order for one o'clock P. M., was presented and read. The report recommended that the letter and accompanying documents be referred to the Medical Society of the State of Indiana, for their consideration. On motion the report was accepted, and the documents directed to be sent to the Medical Society of the State of Indiana.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education being now the special order, Dr. Johnson, of Missouri, moved that, as the report was a long one, and the hour late, the reading of the report be made the special order for the evening session, and the report of the Committee on Medical Literature be called up in its stead. The motion was adopted.

Dr. Reyburn, of Missouri, chairman of the Committee on Medical Literature, presented and read the report of the committee. In the course of his report, he gave way to a motion to adjourn.

Before the adjournment, the Secretary announced that N. S. Davis, of Illinois, had prepared a paper entitled, "An Experimental Inquiry concerning some points connected with the Processes of Assimilation and Nutrition."

On motion of Dr. Stephenson, of N. Y., Dr. Davis was requested to read his paper after the reports of the standing committees had been received and disposed of.

The Association then adjourned to five o'clock P. M.

#### Afternoon Session.

The President, Dr. Moultrie, in the chair.

The President announced that he had appointed Drs. Hays, of Penn., Stevens, of N. York, Yardley, of Penn., Storer, of Mass., and Jones, of N. Carolina, the committee under Dr. Wood's resolution, to inquire into

the constitutionality of receiving delegates from colleges of dentistry and pharmacy; also that he had appointed Drs. G. B. Wood, of Penn., Drake, of Ohio, Stevens, of N. York, W. Hooker, of Conn., Horatio Adams, of Mass., B. R. Wellford, of Va., and S. H. Dickson, of S. C., the committee under Dr. Wood's resolution to appoint special committees in place of the standing committees abolished by the adoption of Dr. Hays' resolution.

Dr. Dickson, of S. Carolina, asked and obtained leave, before proceeding with the special order, to introduce the following preamble and resolutions:—

*Whereas*, efforts are being made to repeal the law of 1847, which confers protective rank on the members of the Medical Department of the Army. Therefore,

*Resolved*, That the American Medical Association views with regret the existence of hostility to the act of Congress approved February 11th, 1847, which confers legal rights, and equality with other staff departments, on the Medical Officers of the Army, and gives them a position to which the character and importance of the profession entitle them.

*Resolved*, That copies of these resolutions, with the resolution of the Association passed at its last annual meeting, on the same subject, be transmitted to the Secretary of War, and of the Navy, also to the Chiefs of the Medical Department of each service, and to the presiding officer of the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States.

The resolutions were seconded by Dr. Leiby, of S. C., and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Reyburn, chairman of the Committee on Medical Literature, completed the reading of the report of the committee, and concluded with the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That a special committee be appointed to take into consideration that portion of this report which refers to the organization of a society for the reception and discussion of original scientific papers, and that said committee be and is hereby instructed to present the details of a plan, if deemed by them expedient, for such a society or section at the next annual meeting.

On motion of Dr. Lamb, of Penn., the report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication, and the resolution was referred to the Committee on the Organiza-

tion of the Association, appointed under Dr. Wood's resolution.

The report of the Committee on Medical Education being now the special order, it was moved that that part of the report relating to demonstrative midwifery, referred to the committee by resolution of the Association at its last meeting, be now read, and the remainder of the report be made the special order for the morning session. The motion was adopted.

Dr. W. Hooker, of Conn., Chairman of the Committee on Medical Education, then presented and read the report of the committee on demonstrative midwifery. On motion the report was accepted and referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Dickson, of S. C., then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted: *Resolved*, That this Association unanimously approve the opinions expressed in the report of the Committee on Medical Education in respect to demonstrative midwifery.

The Association then adjourned to ten o'clock A. M., of Friday.

#### *May 9th.—Morning Session.*

The President, Dr. Moultrie, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Dr. A. H. Stevens, of N. Y., asked and obtained a suspension of the special order, which was the report of the Committee on Medical Education, to enable him to present the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the members of this Association cannot separate without expressing their grateful sense of the hospitalities and numerous delicate attentions received from their medical brethren of South Carolina, and the citizens of Charleston.

*Resolved*, That a committee of three be formed to procure a tablet, with a suitable inscription commemorative of this meeting, and of the feelings it has elicited, to be placed at the disposal of the Medical Association of the State of South Carolina.

The inscription on the label to be as follows:—

"This tablet is here placed by the American Medical Association, to commemorate their annual meeting in the city of Charleston, in May, 1851, and to signalize their gratitude for the extraordinary professional and social enjoyment that accompanied it."

The resolutions were seconded by F. A.



Ramsey, of Tenn., and adopted. Drs. G. Hayward, of Mass.; A. H. Stevens, of N. York; and F. A. Ramsey, of Tenn., were appointed the committee.

Dr. F. A. Ramsey, of Tenn., asked and obtained a further suspension of the rules, to read a letter from Dr. E. D. Fenner, in relation to his annual publication of a volume of "Reports on the Diseases of the Southern States." The letter was read, and Dr. Ramsey, of Tenn., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the effort of Dr. Fenner to place, on a firm and durable basis, an annual publication embracing medical reports from the whole Southern portion of the Union, merits the commendation of this Association, and should receive solid support from American physicians.

Dr. Hays, of Penn., asked and obtained leave to call up so much of the report of the Nominating Committee as recommends a place for the next meeting of the Association, and nominates the Committees of Arrangement and Publication. The report was read as follows:—

The Committee of Nominations beg leave to report that they recommend, as the place for the next meeting of the Association, Richmond, Va.

They report, also, the following committees for the confirmation of the meeting:—

*Committee of Arrangements.*—Drs. R. W. Haxall, Va., chairman; C. P. Johnson, Va.; James Beale, Va.; Charles B. Gibson, Va.; C. S. Mills, Va.; S. Munpas, Va.; R. D. Haskins, Va.; Martin P. Scott, Va.

*Committee on Publication.*—Drs. Isaac Hays, of Penn., chairman; G. Emerson, Penn.; D. F. Condie, Penn.; H. W. De Saussure, S. C.; Isaac Parrish, Penn.; G. W. Norris, Penn.; P. C. Gooch, Va.

Dr. Drake, of Ohio, made an urgent appeal in favour of Washington City, as the next place of meeting. On motion of Dr. Johnson, of Va., the report appointing Richmond, Va., as the next place of meeting, was adopted, and the nominations of the Committees of Arrangement and Publication were confirmed.

Dr. W. Hooker, chairman of the Committee on Medical Education, completed the reading of the report of the committee, concluding it with the following resolutions:—

*Resolved*, That the abuses which exist in the modes of medical education pursued

in this country demand the serious consideration of the profession.

*Resolved*, That free discussion in relation to these causes is an important means of effecting their removal.

*Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Association, no effort to remove these abuses can succeed that is not based upon a reform in the public sentiment both of the profession and of the community.

*Resolved*, That this reform, so far as the profession is concerned, is to be effected mainly through its organization, and that it is, therefore, incumbent upon every physician to do all that he can to give them character and efficiency.

*Resolved*, That this Association have confidence in all proper efforts which have for their object a reform in the sentiment and practice of the community, in relation to medicine and the medical profession.

*Resolved*, That the recommendations of this Association, at its former meetings, in regard to education, both preliminary and medical, be affirmed, and that both the schools and private preceptors be still urged so to do their duty as to secure to the community a well-educated profession.

*Resolved*, That in the work of medical reform, while all precipitate movements should be avoided, we should aim at a steady advance, from year to year, till a thorough system of education be established by the profession throughout our country.

Dr. G. B. Wood, of Pa., asked and obtained leave to suspend the order usually observed in the disposal of reports, in order to present the report of the Committee on Special Committees.

Dr. G. B. Wood, of Penn., chairman of the committee, made the following report:—

The committee to whom was referred the subject of arranging a plan of committees for future action, in place of the standing committees abolished by the Association, have the honour to report as follows:—

It appears to them that the most feasible plan of accomplishing the objects of the Association is, to select certain subjects, which may be considered as suitable for investigation, and to refer these subjects to special committees, to be appointed before the close of the present session, and to report to the next. Such a selection the committee have accordingly made, and will offer to the consideration of the Association.

As an additional means of securing valu-

able contributions, they propose also the appointment of a committee, whose business it shall be, in the intervals between this and the next session, to receive original volunteer papers upon any subject which their authors may choose, to decide upon the merits of these papers, and to present to the Association, at its next session, such of them as they may deem worthy of receiving this distinction. With a view to increase competition, they think it advisable that a prize of fifty dollars, or a gold medal of that value, be awarded to each of the five papers presented to the Association, or any smaller number of them which the committee may consider most meritorious, and the Association may resolve to publish.

In reference to the resolution presented in the report of the standing Committee on Medical Literature, and referred to the present committee, they have only to observe that, as its ends will probably be most effectively obtained by the adoption of the general plan which they have already brought before the notice of the Association, they do not consider it expedient to make any further report.

As to the appointment of the special committee referred to, your committee think that the most convenient plan will be to refer to a special committee the nomination of a chairman for each, who shall then select, at his convenience, two individuals to aid him, with this restriction only, that the persons so selected shall be members of the Association.

To the same Nominating Committee may be referred the appointment of the general committee, whose business will be to receive and judge of volunteer papers. As the members of this general committee must frequently compare opinions, it will be desirable that they should reside near each other; and it is accordingly proposed that they should be chosen from one neighbourhood. If the plan be found to work well, this locality may be changed every year, so that each section of the Union may, in its turn, be charged with this duty. The committee would suggest that the general committee should be first chosen from members of the Association residing in Boston, or its neighbourhood, as the most northern point.

To embody these suggestions in due form, the committee offer the following resolutions:—

I. *Resolved*, That committees of three be

appointed to investigate and report severally on the following subjects:—

- 1st. Causes of the tubercular diathesis.
  - 2d. Blending and conversion of the types of fever.
  - 3d. The mutual relations of yellow fever and bilious remittent fever.
  - 4th. Epidemic erysipelas.
  - 5th. Acute and chronic diseases of the neck of the uterus.
  - 6th. Dengue.
  - 7th. The milk sickness, so called.
  - 8th. Endemic prevalence of tetanus.
  - 9th. Diseases of parasitic origin.
  - 10th. Physiological peculiarities and diseases of negroes.
  - 11th. The action of water on lead-pipes, and the diseases which proceed from it.
  - 12th. The alkaloids which may be substituted for quinia.
  - 13th. Permanent cure of reducible hernia.
  - 14th. Results of surgical operations for the relief of malignant diseases.
  - 15th. Statistics of operations for removal of stone in the bladder.
  - 16th. Cold water dressings.
  - 17th. The sanitary principles applicable to the construction of dwellings.
  - 18th. The toxicological and medicinal properties of our cryptogamic plants.
  - 19th. Agency of the refrigeration produced through upward radiation of heat as an exciting cause of disease.
  - 20th. Epidemic diseases of New England and New York.
  - 21st. Ditto, ditto, Pennsylvania, N. Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland.
  - 22d. Ditto, ditto, Virginia and North Carolina.
  - 23d. Ditto, ditto, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.
  - 24th. Ditto, ditto, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.
  - 25th. Ditto, ditto, Tennessee and Kentucky.
  - 26th. Ditto, ditto, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.
  - 27th. Ditto, ditto, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan.
- II. *Resolved*, That a Committee of Nomination be appointed, whose duty it shall be to nominate one chairman for each of the above committees.
- III. *Resolved*, That each of the chairmen thus nominated shall select, at his earliest convenience, two members of the Association to complete the committee.



IV. *Resolved*, That a committee of five members be appointed, to be called the *Committee for Volunteer Communications*, whose duty it shall be, in the interval between the present and the next succeeding sessions, to receive papers upon any subject, from any persons who may choose to send them, to decide upon the merits of these papers, and to select for presentation to the Association, at its next session, such as they may deem worthy of being thus presented.

V. *Resolved*, That the *Committee for Volunteer Communications* shall have the power to form such regulations as to the mode in which the papers are to be presented, and as to the observing of secrecy, or otherwise, as they may think proper.

VI. *Resolved*, That the selection of the members of this committee be referred to the same Nominating Committee, whose duty it will be to appoint the chairman of the several special committees, as above directed, with this restriction, that the individuals composing it shall reside in the same neighbourhood.

VII. *Resolved*, That a prize of fifty dollars be awarded to each of the volunteer communications reported on favourably by the committee, and directed by the Association to be published, provided that the number to which the prize is thus awarded do not exceed five; and provided, also, if the number approved and directed to be published exceed five, that, in such case, the prize be awarded to the five which the committee may determine to be most meritorious.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. B. WOOD, *Chairman*.

CHARLESTON, May 9th, 1851.

On motion of Dr. Huston, of Penn., the report was accepted, and the resolutions proposed by the committee were adopted.

On motion of Dr. La Roche, of Penn, the same committee were requested to make the nominations for the several special committees organized under their report.

On motion of Dr. Stevens, of New York, it was

*Resolved*, That other committees may be added to those already proposed by the committee, if deemed by them advisable or necessary.

On motion of Dr. Phelps, of New York, the report of the Committee on Medical

Education was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Medical Education, and the resolutions appended to the report concurred in by the Association.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Pennsylvania, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to the several State Medical Societies throughout the Union, to procure a republication of the Report of the Committee on Medical Education, for general distribution among the profession.

Dr. Hays, of Pennsylvania, gave notice that, at the next meeting of the Association, he should propose an amendment to the sixth article of the Constitution, line No. 9, so as to read \$10, instead of \$3.

Dr. Drake, of Ohio, then offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That in the opinion of this Association, the students of our schools should be required to matriculate within the first — days after the opening of the sessions, and continue their attendance to the end of the term, taking with them evidence of the same, to be presented with the tickets of the professors, when they become candidates for degrees.

This resolution was seconded by Dr. W. Hooker, of Connecticut—discussed by Drs. Burrows, of Pennsylvania; Hooker, of Connecticut; F. A. Ramsay, of Tennessee; Gibson, of Pennsylvania; Drake, of Ohio; Huston, of Pennsylvania—and finally adopted, the blank between the words "first" and "days" being left unfilled.

The report of the Committee on Medical Sciences being the business next in order, the Secretary read a letter from Dr. Bennet Dowler, of Louisiana, chairman of the committee, regretting his inability to be present at the meeting of the Association, and presenting the report through Dr. Fenner.

Dr. Fenner, of Louisiana, read the outlines of the report of the Committee on Medical Sciences, and requested permission, in behalf of Dr. Dowler, to retain the same for revision and copy. On motion, the report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

On motion of Dr. Phelps, of New York, it was

*Resolved*, That, if a copy of the report of the Committee on Medical Sciences was not forwarded in time, the Committee on Publication be instructed not to delay

the issue of the Transactions in consequence.

Dr. Maurán, of New York, asked and obtained a suspension of the order of business, in order to present the following resolution, which was adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Publication be instructed to print conspicuously, at the beginning of the forthcoming volume of the "Transactions," the following disclaimer, viz:—The American Medical Association, although formally accepting and publishing the Reports of the various Standing Committees, holds itself wholly irresponsible for the opinions, theories, or criticisms therein contained, except when so decided by special resolution.

Dr. Storer, of Massachusetts, then offered the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted:—

*Resolved*, That the hearty thanks of this Association be presented to their late Secretary, Alfred Stillé, M. D., for his constant, unwearied, and invaluable services since its first organization.

Dr. N. B. Ives, Chairman of the Committee on Adulterated Drugs, presented the report of the committee, which was read by the Secretary. A motion to refer to the Committee on Publication was debated by Drs. Guthrie, of New York; Gooch, of Virginia; Ives, of Connecticut; Davis, of New York; and Huston and Hays, of Pennsylvania; and finally lost. On motion of Dr. Davis, of New York, the report was accepted and laid on the table.

Dr. Gaillard, of South Carolina, Chairman of the Committee on Hygiene, presented the report of the committee, and read an abstract of its contents. On motion of Dr. Hays, of Pennsylvania, the report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication, with authority to print with it a paper now in preparation on the mortuary statistics of some of the larger cities.

Dr. Drake, of Ohio, offered the following amendments to the constitution, which were read, and laid on the table under the rule:—

All "members by invitation" must be nominated in writing by five members of the Association, whose names shall be recorded on the minutes; when elected, they shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of delegates, and remain permanent members of the Association.

All permanent members shall be entitled

to vote, and when they attend a meeting of the Association, their respective names shall be registered, and each shall pay the sum required from a delegate.

The Secretary read a protest from the Iowa University against the representation of the Rush Medical College in this Association.

Dr. Jervey, of South Carolina, moved that the protest be referred to a select committee. This motion was discussed by Drs. Huston, of Pennsylvania; Grimshaw, of Delaware; Gaillard, of South Carolina; Davis, of New York; Dickson, of South Carolina; Wood, of Pennsylvania; Z. B. Adams, of Massachusetts; Emerson, of Pennsylvania; and finally withdrawn.

Dr. Wood, of Pennsylvania, then moved to refer the protest to the Committee on the Organization of the Association, appointed under Dr. Wood's resolution. This motion was seconded by Dr. Huston, and adopted.

Dr. Wood, of Pennsylvania, read the following report of the committee appointed to nominate the chairman of the several special committees.

The committee to whom was referred the nomination of the chairman of the several special committees to report at the next session, and also of the *Committee for Volunteer Communications*, report that they have fulfilled the object of their appointment, and offer the following list of chairmen to the committees first referred to, viz:—

1. Dr. D. F. Condie, of Philadelphia, Chairman to the Committee on the Causes of the Tubercular Diathesis.
2. Dr. S. H. Dickson, of Charleston, South Carolina, on the Blending and Conversion of the Types of Fever.
3. Dr. James Jones, of New Orleans, on the Mutual Relations of Yellow and Bilious Remittent Fever.
4. Dr. John B. Johnson, of St. Louis, Missouri, on Epidemic Erysipelas.
5. Dr. Charles D. Meigs, of Philadelphia, Acute and Chronic Diseases of the Neck of the Uterus.
6. Dr. J. P. Jervey, of Charleston, South Carolina, on Dengue.
7. Dr. Daniel Drake, of Cincinnati, Milk Sickness, so called.
8. Dr. Lopez, Mobile, Alabama, Endemic Prevalence of Tetanus.
9. Dr. George B. Wood, of Philadelphia, on Diseases of Parasitic Origin.
10. Dr. R. D. Arnold, Savannah, Georgia,

on the Physiological Peculiarities and Diseases of Negroes.

11. Dr. Horatio Adams, of Waltham, Massachusetts, on the Action of Water on Lead Pipes, and the Diseases which proceed from it.

12. Dr. Joseph Carson, Philadelphia, on the Alkaloids which may be substituted for Quinia.

13. Dr. George Hayward, Boston, Massachusetts, on the Permanent Cure of Reducible Hernia.

14. Dr. S. D. Gross, Louisville, Kentucky, on Results of Surgical Operations for the Relief of Malignant Diseases.

15. Dr. James R. Wood, New York, Statistics of the Operation for the Removal of Stone in the Bladder.

16. Dr. Charles A. Pope, St. Louis, Missouri, Water, its Topical Uses in Surgery.

17. Dr. Alexander H. Stevens, New York, Sanitary Principles applicable to the Construction of Dwellings.

18. Dr. Porcher, Charleston, South Carolina, Toxicological and Medicinal Properties of our Cryptogamic Plants.

19. Dr. G. Emerson, Philadelphia, Agency of the Refrigeration produced through Upward Radiation of Heat as an Exciting Cause of Disease.

20. Dr. Worthington Hooker, Connecticut, on the Epidemics of New England and New York.

21. Dr. John L. Atlee, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, on the Epidemics of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland.

22. Dr. Robert W. Haxall, Richmond, Virginia, on the Epidemics of Virginia and North Carolina.

23. Dr. William M. Boling, Montgomery, Alabama, on the Epidemics of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Alabama.

24. Dr. Edward H. Barton, Louisiana, on the Epidemics of Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Arkansas.

25. Dr. Sutton, Georgetown, Kentucky, on the Epidemics of Tennessee and Kentucky.

26. Dr. Thomas Reyburn, Missouri, on the Epidemics of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin.

27. Dr. George Mendenhall, Ohio, on the Epidemics of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan.

The following gentlemen were appointed on the Committee for Volunteer Communications, viz.:—Drs. George Hayward, J. B.

S. Jackson, D. H. Storer, and Jacob Bigelow, of Boston; and Dr. Usher Parsons, of Providence, Rhode Island.

Signed on behalf of the Committee.

GEORGE B. WOOD,

Chairman.

CHARLESTON, Friday, May 9th, 1851.

On motion, the report was accepted, and the nominations confirmed.

The President read an invitation from the Committee of Reception of the South Carolina Medical Association to the Delegates, to a steamboat excursion on the Cooper and Ashley rivers, after the adjournment of the Association.

Dr. McIntyre, of New York, moved that this Association recommend to the several State Societies the republication of the Code of Ethics and Constitution of this Association for distribution among their members; the motion was adopted.

Dr. Grimshaw, of Delaware, offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That Medical Colleges, in publishing statements of the number of Medical and Surgical Cases treated at their Dispensaries, act contrary to the spirit of the Code of Ethics adopted by this body. The resolution was seconded by Dr. Wood, of New York, debated, and finally laid on the table for future consideration.

The Association then adjourned to 5 o'clock P. M.

#### Afternoon Session.

The Vice-President, Dr. Wellford, in the chair.

The special order for the afternoon session was called up, and Dr. Davis, of Illinois, read his paper entitled "An Experimental Inquiry concerning some points connected with the Processes of Assimilation and Nutrition." On motion of Dr. Grimshaw, the thanks of the Association were presented to Dr. Davis for the paper just presented by him.

Dr. F. A. Ramsey, of Tennessee, offered the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That the professors of the medical colleges be recommended to require all candidates for graduation to attend at least two full courses of lectures.

This resolution was seconded, debated, and finally rejected.

Dr. Grimshaw, of Delaware, called up, as unfinished business, the resolution offered

yesterday by Dr. Jones, of North Carolina, and not then acted upon, to which he offered the following amendment: "And that the first convention be held before the first of May, 1852." The question being taken on the resolution and the amendment, they were both laid on the table.

Dr. Phelps, of New York, offered the following amendment to the constitution, which, under the rule, lies over to the next meeting of the Association: "In article 2, p. 60, in the last line but one from the bottom of the page, insert between the words 'endeavours' and 'to carry,' 'in reliance on Divine guidance and support.' The passage will then read thus, 'and use our endeavours, in reliance on Divine guidance and support, to carry into effect,' &c. &c."

Dr. Phelps, of New York, offered the following resolutions, which were adopted unanimously:—

*Resolved*, That the warmest thanks of the Association be tendered to the trustees of the St. Andrew's Society for the gratuitous use of their very convenient and eligible hall, and to all those other institutions and reading-rooms which have been so freely thrown open to the inspection and use of the delegates.

*Resolved*, That the Committee of Reception and Arrangements receive our most grateful acknowledgments for the very handsome manner in which they have provided for the reception and entertainment of the delegates from abroad during their sojourn in the city of Charleston.

*Resolved*, That not only the medical profession, but the citizens generally, by private and public hospitality, have united in the manifestation of that urbanity of manner, and that unwearied and kind attention, which commands not only our profound admiration, but will be followed by the most pleasing recollections so long as life and thought shall endure.

On motion of Dr. Stevens, of New York, the above resolutions, and those of a similar purport adopted at the morning session, were ordered to be published in the Charleston papers.

On motion of Dr. Johnson, of Missouri, the Association adjourned *sine die*.

The Vice-President, Dr. Wellford, of Virginia, then congratulated the Association on the happy termination of its labours, and declared the meeting adjourned.

## MEDICAL NEWS.

### DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE.

*Report of Committee of Philadelphia Co. Medical Society, appointed to procure an enumeration of the Practitioners of the County.*

—The committee appointed in conformity with a resolution, passed at the last session of the State Medical Society, "requesting the different County Societies to procure an enumeration of the regular practitioners within their limits, distinguishing between those who are graduates of Medical schools, and those who practice medicine, but who are not graduates; and to state also the number of irregular practitioners, distinguishing among the adherents of the several false systems which prevail," respectfully beg leave to report:—

That, with a conviction of the interest and importance of the object intended to be accomplished by this action of the State Society, they have given all possible care and attention to the duty confided to them; and that they believe the results attained are, as nearly as practicable, correct and true.

Regarding, as they do, the title "*Physician*," as properly and solely belonging to those who practice medicine in a legitimate and regular manner, it has been adopted as the most appropriate designation for the great majority of the practitioners in this county, reserving for all others the particular names either given to themselves, or by which they are commonly known to the community. Accordingly, under this last head, they have arranged Homœopathists, Hydropathists, Thompsonians, and Herb or Indian Doctors, whilst those who conjoin the business of druggists with the practice of medicine are classified under the separate head of "*Practitioners of Medicine and Druggists*."

The difficulty, indeed the impossibility, of correctly determining the character of some practitioners, has rendered it necessary to arrange all such under some head expressive of this fact, and accordingly the term "*Non-descript Practitioners*" has been adopted for this purpose. The name "*Advertising Doctors*" has been given to another class.

The whole number of practitioners, of all kinds, so far as could be ascertained, is 582, or, with allowance for omissions, say about 600. Of these, 397 are *Physicians* (regular practitioners); 42 Homœopathists; 30 Thompsonians; 2 Hydropathists; 32 "*Advertising Doctors*;" 37 Druggists and Phy-

sicians; and 42. "Nondescripts" or *unascertained*; in all, 582.

*Number of Practitioners in Berks Co. (Penn.)*—The number of practitioners in this county is about sixty-eight, of which forty are regular, and twenty-eight irregular.

The population is 71,179; families twelve to thirteen thousand; making one practitioner to about one thousand individuals, or one to about one hundred and seventy-five families.

The number of practitioners in the city of Reading is twenty, of whom fourteen are regular, and six irregular; of the latter, two are homœopaths. The population of the city is sixteen thousand; families, about three thousand two hundred; being one practitioner to every eight hundred individuals, or one to one hundred and sixty families.

*Number of Practitioners in Huntingdon Co. (Penn.)*—The number of medical practitioners in this county is thirty-four. Twenty-nine of these are physicians, of whom only twelve are graduates. Of the irregular practitioners, four are followers of the Thompsonian system, and one is an Homœopathist.

*Number of Practitioners in Northampton County.*—The number of regular practitioners in this county is thirty-one; irregular practitioners, seventeen, of whom nine are homœopaths, one hydropathic, and four *nondescripts*.

*Nashville Journal of Medicine and Surgery.*—This is the title of a new Journal, edited by Dr. W. K. BOWLING, the first number of which was issued in February last.

Among the *novelties* which we find in this number is the following statement in an editorial, which we must confess has taken us by surprise, and is entirely *new* to us:—

"To the medical men of the United States is due the credit of first conceiving the idea of a Medical Journal; and the New York Medical Repository was the first pioneer in an unexplored region, subsequently so sedulously cultivated by the brightest intellects in the Republic of Medicine. Especially to Dr. Elihu H. Smith is the profession indebted for the conception of this happy thought. He suggested it to his two medical friends, Dr. Sam'l L. Mitchell and Dr. Edward Miller, who united with him in the enterprise;

and in August, 1793, the first number of the Repository, the result of their joint labours, made its appearance. The novelty of the undertaking had the effect of popularizing this stranger in an uncultivated wilderness of the world's literature, and it was sustained by the profession with great unanimity. Its fame crossed the Atlantic, and awakened in the medical mind of England an interest in this new field of scientific labour. The Medical and Philosophical Journal of London was issued shortly after the first appearance of the New York Repository, the London editor frankly avowing that he had taken the idea from a similar enterprise in New York. Paris, Edinburgh, and Bremen soon followed, and in a few years Medical Journals became a common means of intercommunication with the profession throughout Europe."

We trust our new *confrère* in the editorial corps will be able to substantiate the claim he has set up for our countryman, of the honour of having been the first pioneer in Medical Journalism; and will succeed in proving that the numerous Journals now staring at us from their shelves as we write, and showing on their title-pages long anterior dates, have been all antedated, and that even the New York Medical Repository has been falsified by a post-date.

Thus to notice only a few of these anteriorly dated Journals: The "Recueil Périodique d'Observations de Médecine, de Chirurgie, et de Pharmacie, par Vandermonde, Roux, &c.," purports to have been published in Paris in 1754.

Duncan's Medical Commentaries, in Edinburgh in 1773.

Simmon's London Medical Journal, in London in 1781.

Medical Facts and Observations, in London in 1791.

Medical and Chirurgical Review, in London in 1794.

Moreover, our copy of the first number of the New York Medical Repository, now before us, bears date July 26th, 1797 (not 1793); and the prospectus of the work, the date of Nov. 15th, 1796.

The Editor of the Nashville Journal will doubtless expose all this deception, and we shall look with the same anxiety for the appearance of his next number that we remember years ago to have waited to get possession of the second volume of Cervantes' inimitable work after having finished the first.

*Vacant Professorships in New York.*—The following vacancies exist in the Medical Colleges in the city of New York.

The chair of *Materia Medica, Therapeutics, and Med. Jurisp.* in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, vacated by the decease of Dr. J. B. Beck.

The chairs of *Practice of Medicine and Surgery* in the University of the city of New York, rendered vacant by the resignation of Drs. Bartlett and Gross.

The chair of *Surgery* in the New York Medical College, vacated by the resignation of Dr. A. L. Cox.

*St. Louis University.*—Dr. T. REYBURN has resigned the Professorship of *Materia Medica and Therapeutics* in this school.

#### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

*Interments in Towns.*—The committee of the House of Commons, in 1842, reported "that, after a long and patient investigation, your committee cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the nuisance of interments in large towns, and the injury arising to the health of the community from the practice, are fully proved."

*Gambier, a New Remedy from China for Intermittent Fever.*—Dr. CHAS. DUMARS, of Montpellier, relates, in the *Gaz. Méd. de Montpellier*, Jan. 18th, 1851, seven cases of intermittent fever successfully treated by this remedy. "Having read," he says, "in an interesting work (*Journal d'un Voyage en China*) by M. Itier, Directeur des Douanes at Montpellier, that the Chinese physicians prescribe gambier in diarrhoea, intermittent fever, dysentery, &c., I was tempted to make trial of it. I repaired to M. Itier, and acquainted him with my project: 'You are right,' he replied. 'I can assure you that, during my sojourn at Singapore, I have seen it employed by the Chinese physicians in intermittent fevers, and they assured me of its uniform success.' As he kindly placed some at my disposal, I prepared thirty pills, each containing thirty centigrammes of gambier." These Dr. D. ordered to a woman laboring under an attack of intermittent fever which had resisted the use of sulphate of quinine, resin of quina, and of Dr. Baud's pills of hydro-ferrocyanide of potassium and urea. The fever disappeared the next day,

and she has continued well for three months. Dr. D. has since used it in six other cases with like success.

*Inhalation of Chloroform.*—During a debate on a paper recently read before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Dr. COPLAND said he was willing to admit that injury had resulted from the injudicious use of the chloroform, but there did not appear to have always been a due recognition of the state of the patient to whom it was administered. He thought we should not employ it in cases of organic disease of the heart, nor in cases of neuralgia where there was any reason to suspect that there was disease of the nervous centres. He was surprised that no notice had been taken of the effects of chloroform on the lungs themselves. The gist of the first paper was to show the usefulness of this agent in some spasmodic affections of the air-passages. In some cases, however, it might be injurious. In some cases in which chloroform had been used and the patients had died, symptoms of congestive pneumonia had presented themselves, which were regarded as the effects of chloroform rather than of the operation to which the patients had been subjected. In some cases in which he had been consulted respecting the inhalation of chloroform in operations upon the teeth, he had generally objected to it; for he had seen two cases of congestive pneumonia from that cause, in one of which cases the patient did not fully recover from the disease under six months. He thought, then, it was most desirable not to use chloroform in cases where there was a tendency to lung disease, and this caution held especially good in cases of early phthisis, in which there was usually a tendency to congestive inflammation.

*Flourens on Chlorinated Hydrochloric Ether.*—A new substance has been proposed by chemists, as possessing in a very high degree the power of suspending the sensibility of the tissues in animals submitted to its influence. M. Flourens (on the 20th instant) informed the Academy of Sciences of Paris, of some experiments he has lately made, with the view of studying the effects of chlorinated hydrochloric ether upon animals. The learned physiologist has subjected several dogs to the inhalation of this ether (prepared by M. Ed. Robin), and all of them were affected with general anæsthesia,



some in from three to four minutes, and others in four or five. The sciatic nerve, which, in some of the cases, was laid bare, was found to have lost all sensibility, but to retain its motive power. Not one of the dogs died.

M. Flourens then tried the effect of injecting it into the arteries. He threw into the right crural artery of several dogs from 2 to 21.2 grammes (say 40 grains to 400) of chlorinated hydrochloric ether.

At the moment of injection the animal gave a cry of pain. There succeeded sudden paralysis of the posterior extremity; the sciatic nerve, laid bare, still retained its sensibility, but had lost all motive power. Chlorinated hydrochloric ether has, therefore, whether inhaled or injected, the same action as chloroform. This, injected into the arteries, immediately produces paralysis of the muscles, with tetanic rigidity; as also do the volatile oils of turpentine, mint, rosemary, fennel, &c. On the contrary, the ordinary ethers, the fixed oils, oil of olives, oil of naphtha, sulphuric acid, ammonia, and camphor, produce muscular paralysis, with relaxation of the fibres.

Moreover, these experiments appear to separate muscular from nervous action; for, on the one hand, tetanic rigidity exhibits itself even when the motivity of the nerve is not lost; and, on the contrary, muscular relaxation occurs while the motivity of the nerve remains. There is thus a visible independence in the action of the nerve, and that of the muscle.—*Institute*, Feb. 8th, 1851.

**Incontinence of Urine.**—M. DEMAUX has published two cases in the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, January, 1851, one of a young man of twenty, the other referring to a girl of eighteen years, in which he succeeded in arresting the uncomfortable flow of urine at night by cauterizing the neck of the bladder with nitrate of silver, using Lallemand's "porte caustique" for the purpose. Various remedies had been tried in both cases, but they had all failed; cauterization, however, removed the symptoms in a very short time.—*Lancet*, May 10th, 1851.

**Artificial Vichy Water.**—Bicarbonate of soda, dissolved in water, imitates the Vichy water very imperfectly. The *Bulletin de Thérapeutique* gives the following formula for the purpose: Bicarbonate of soda, seventy-five grains; chloride of sodium, four

grains; sulphate of soda, ten grains; sulphate of magnesia, three grains; sulphate of iron, one-fifth of a grain. Dissolve in a bottle of water, and use it as the natural Vichy water. By adding forty-five grains of citric acid, the water will effervesce.—*Ibid*.

**Apparent Death.**—M. GIRBAL, Clinical Professor at the Faculty of Montpellier, has recorded a very striking example of apparent death, by which even the medical attendants were deceived.

A young woman, who had suffered from hæmoptysis, spasms, syncope, &c., after suppression of the menstrual flux, suddenly went off, and appeared dead. Several hours afterwards she was seen by M. Girbal. The body was cold, the pulse absent. On examining the heart for two minutes with the stethoscope, no pulsation could be detected. The globes of the eye were flaccid; no movement of the diaphragm could be detected. All the usual means failed to restore animation; yet the girl came to life of herself in half an hour afterwards.—*Bull. de l'Acad.*

**Saline Artesian Well.**—The boring of the famous Artesian well, the Schonborn, at Kissingen in Rhenish Bavaria, which commenced in 1822, has recently been brought to a successful termination. This immense work, of the success of which people were beginning to despair, has given results never witnessed before. Kissingen is situated in a saline valley about 990 feet above the level of the Baltic. In the month of June, 1849, after seventeen years of work, the boring had reached a depth of 1820 feet, having previously passed through several strata of salt separated by masses of granite. There was then encountered, for the first time, a stratum of carbonic acid gas, followed by new granite masses, and at length on the 12th of June, a violent detonation overthrew, but without injury to anybody, the scaffolding which covered the mouth of the well, and almost immediately there was seen issuing from the orifice a column of water, nearly five inches in diameter, which rose with a prodigious force to the height of 100 feet, diffused itself on all sides like the branches of a magnificent palm tree, and thus formed the most extraordinary *jet d'eau* imaginable. The water, clear as crystal, issues from the soil at a temperature of 66° Fahr., charged with 3.4 per cent. of pure salt, and gives a volume of 40 cubic feet per minute. It is forced up by an

atmosphere of carbonic acid gas acting with a force of fifty atmospheres. The total depth of the well is 2047 feet. It is calculated that this spring will yield annually about 293 tons of salt, which, deducting expenses, will add 30,000*l.* to the revenue of Bavaria.

*Homœopathic Medicines*.—*JAHR's Nouvelle Pharmacopée Homœopathique*, published at Paris in 1841, contains, in the list of *Materia Medica*, various disgusting absurdities, among which are *lachesis*, the poison of the rattlesnake; *formica rufa*, the red ant; *aranea diadema*, a species of spider; *rana bufo*, the toad; *lacerta agilis*, the lizard; *scarabæus melolontha*, the cockchafer; *viscerra putorius*, stinking polecat, of which the officinal part is the fetid secretion from the glands near the anus. The *écruissées*, or fresh-water crabs, are directed to be pounded ALIVE in a mortar until reduced to a fine paste. This is diluted with about twice its volume of alcohol, then strained, and the liquor preserved for dilution in the usual way. Toads, lizards, cockchafers, and other reptiles and insects are brayed (alive) in the same manner!

We also learn from a contemporary that to such an extent is the doctrine *similia similibus curantur* carried, that "syphiline" is administered to patients suffering under secondary syphilis; and "blennorrhin," which is gonorrhœal matter manipulated according to the rules of homœopathic confectionery, is mentioned in the *Homœopathic Archives*\* as a remedy for gonorrhœa and gleet!!!

We think, if the lords and ladies who have lately become the victims of this delusion, were to receive a gentle hint of what they were really made to swallow, this filthy imposture would soon cease to be heard of.—*Institute*, Jan. 25th, 1851.

*Homœopathy*.—The College of Physicians of Edinburgh has just come to a resolution condemnatory of the practice of homœopathy, and calling upon any of its fellows or licentiates who may look with favour on that silly heresy to disconnect themselves from a body instituted for the cultivation and promotion of science. It is, we believe, well understood to be the purpose of the northern college to proceed against all such persons as may show themselves slow to understand

what honour and truth require of them. They will be plainly and forcibly ejected. Nor will those be spared, who, in weak compliance with aristocratic caprice, and in order to steal a march upon their more sturdy and honest competitors, so far forget what is due to their education, their position, and their duty to their patients, as to countenance and meet in consultation the pseudo-medical tribe, who, under the gabardine of homœopaths, wait upon the weaknesses, and stoop to the humours, of pampered and idle men and women of the upper ranks of society. All honour to the College of Physicians of Edinburgh! We trust they will neither waver nor pause in their manly and honest course. It is time that the medical profession should rouse itself to vindicate both its character and its property. Toleration has gone far enough, and the evil but grows with impunity. We have in this metropolis, to a still greater extent than in Edinburgh, our impostors, and we regret to say also, our false brothers, who do us more injury than the quacks. Were the homœopaths invariably left in the difficulties into which their presumption and their dishonesty frequently lead them, their credit with the public would long ago have been destroyed. But when physicians of hitherto good name consent to meet such men, and thus vouch for the propriety of their proceedings, they are vastly aided in their scandalous and nefarious trade. We regret to think that, in London, men attending members of the royal family have been singularly guilty in this respect.

We should be glad to hear that our own College of Physicians had roused itself to the evil which is stalking abroad. The monstrous alliances now proceeding between regulars and quacks might surely deserve the exertion of collegiate authority. The Edinburgh College will not, we trust, forget that there are great functionaries to be corrected. What is to be done with Dr. HENDERSON, the homœopathic professor of pathology in the University of Edinburgh, to the condign disgrace of the university and of every other professor, be it spoken? What sort of pathology does this man teach? If he teach the pupils of the university the ordinary and approved doctrines of physic, what becomes of his practice? If he teach them homœopathy, what excuse have the patrons for the toleration? In either case, "*Ou l'honneur ou-t-elle se nicher.*"—*Lancet*, May 17th, 1851.

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